

Fort Harrison

Mrs. Remley Herr  
R. R. 7, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933

Saturday morning

Dear Maxine,

I'm very sorry to be so slow sending my report and answer to your question. School was out yesterday afternoon and the last few weeks are hectic with the end of the year activities and extra work.

Also I had to find my rough draft. I hope I hadn't added too much at the last minute.

When I asked Remley your question, he replied he didn't know the answer. Because he hasn't made a study of Harrison. From related studies, however, he said he was

certain Harrison used the Roman style of fort. The books Remley used for that article, <sup>"image seemed Anthony Wayne's Indian Campaign."</sup> were mainly from the state library. All of the books were on "Mad" Anthony Wayne. If diagrams and plans exist for Ft. Harrison, they will probably be among the Wetherill Collection in the Tipton and County Historical Association. Remley would be willing to search those papers for you if you would send a letter to him <sup>asking</sup> ~~authorizing~~ him to do so and stating the purpose for your search. An impressive signature or title on the letter would be helpful.

Sorry this is so messy, but I'm trying to get caught up in other late letters.

Sincerely,

Eleana

14  
HARRISON

**FT. HARRISON POST**  
*Mar 17 1936*  
**INDORSES PLAN TO**  
*T.H. STAR*  
**ENSHRINE OLD FORT**

Members of the American Legion whose post bears the name of Fort Harrison formally presented their support yesterday to the movement for construction of a national memorial at the site of the military outpost which proved the inland key to American success in the War of 1812.

Resolutions adopted by Fort Harrison Post No. 40, American Legion, added the name of the local group to the list of organizations sponsoring the plan for a national shrine in Vigo County. Resolutions of approval already have been adopted by the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Vigo County Historical Society and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The legion resolution follows:

Whereas, It has been proposed to undertake the project of securing the conversion of the site of Fort Harrison into a state or national project, through state or federal aid; and

Whereas, The historic interest attached to the site of the old fort should make it a shrine for liberty lovers of the United States and bring to the city thousands of visitors interested in the history of the vast territory included in the Northwest Territory of that day, and which composed in greater part the present states of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin; and

Whereas, The names connected with the building and defense of Fort Harrison include those of two men who later became President of the United States, William Henry Harrison and Zachary Taylor, the latter's defense of the fort breaking the power of the British in this section of the country, making possible the development of what is now the great Middle West; therefore be it

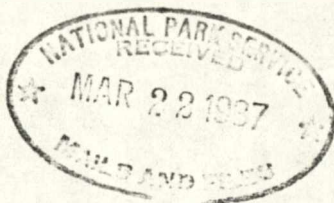
Resolved, By Fort Harrison Post No. 40, the American Legion, named in honor of the old fort, that we sponsor so far as we may be permitted to do so, the development of the project for the conversion of the present site of Fort Harrison into a state or national park and pledge to aid in every way in our power the furthering of the project.

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE  
Special Collections



MAR 29 1937

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



ECW REGION TWO  
300 KEELINE BUILDING  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

March 20, 1937

The Director  
National Park Service  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Spalding

Subject: Special Report on Fort Harrison,  
Indiana, by Assistant Historian Pitkin

Dear Mr. Director:

Two copies of Assistant Historian T. M. Pitkin's Special Report on Fort Harrison, Indiana, are herewith forwarded. The investigation of this area was suggested in your letter of February 2 to Mr. R. M. Grizzle of Terre Haute, Indiana, a copy of which letter was sent to us.

Dr. Pitkin's concise account historical associations and excellent description of the present condition of the site and factors involved in the movement for its development enable the reader to gain a fair picture of the proposal that led to this investigation. Dr. Pitkin's recommendations do not indicate that this site is of such exceptional character or significance that it should be included in the current Survey of Historic Sites being reported on Inventory Form 10-317.

Sincerely yours,

Paul V. Brown, Regional Officer  
Region II, National Park Service

By

*Olaf T. Hager*  
Olaf T. Hager  
Associate Historian

OTH:JT  
enc.  
cc: Pitkin

*Mr. Spalding*  
*Mr. Lee*  
*Miss Sts*  
*carded*  
*0-34*  
*Indian*

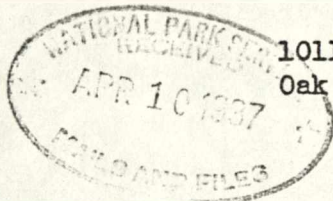


APR 10 1937

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

*Office*  
*Mrs. Lee*  
*Miss Fice*  
In Reply Refer  
To: E - 7 - H

1011 Lake Street  
Oak Park, Illinois



April 8, 1937

The Director  
National Park Service  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Branch of Historic Sites and Buildings.

Subject: Additional Material on  
Fort Harrison, Indiana.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are aerial maps of the site of Fort Harrison, Terre Haute, Indiana, and a map of Vigo County, Indiana, in which the site is located.

This material has just been received from Mr. Roscoe M. Grizzle, of Terre Haute, who called attention to the site in January. It will serve to supplement, to some extent, my report of March 18, on Fort Harrison.

Sincerely yours,

*Thomas M. Pitkin*  
Thomas M. Pitkin  
Assistant Historian

Enclosures.

*Par Selces.*  
*Be sure & put*  
*with Pitkin's report*  
*attached -*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ECW REGION TWO  
300 KEELINE BUILDING  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA



1937 MAY 17

May 12, 1937

The Director,  
National Park Service,  
Washington, D. C.

Subject: Special Report on Vincennes, Indiana  
by Assistant Historian Pitkin

Dear Mr. Director:

Two copies of Assistant Historian Pitkin's and Associate Architect Caldwell's able and well written reports on historic sites, structures and memorials at Vincennes, Indiana are herewith forwarded. In stressing the significance of existing remains and their associations, the reports indicate that the areas treated merit considerable attention in a national program for historic sites.

Although steps have been taken by private organizations, State and Federal Government in the preservation of these structures and in the erection of commemorative memorials, they are of such exceptional architectural and historical character that their treatment as a unit administered and maintained by the National Park Service, seems desirable. Comparison of the area in question with other areas in this Region serve only to strengthen the conclusion that Vincennes sites merit consideration for further recognition.

Sincerely yours,

Paul V. Brown, Regional Officer  
Region Two, National Park Service  
by

*Olof E. Hagen*  
Olof E. Hagen,  
Associate Historian.

OTH:B

cc-Pitkin  
Hagen  
file

*See*  
*File*  
*0-36*  
*Indiana*



Fort Harrison



*[Handwritten signature]*  
Terre Haute, Indiana,  
December 10th 1936

Department of Interior,  
Director of National Park Service  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of November 25th 1936 relative to historic sites for national park purposes.

Enclosed herewith is a copy of resolution adopted by the Vigo County Historical Society, and a number of other patriotic and civic organizations of this city and community suggesting the acquisition restoration and development of the original site of Fort Harrison.

It may be said without hesitation that Fort Harrison, situated on the East bank of the Wabash River, in Vigo County Indiana, was a principal fort in the development of the great Northwest Territory, as will be found in the pages of history of our great Nation, and for that reason we believe this site merits the protection and development of the Federal Government, since two of the leaders of the old fort later became Presidents of this great United States, namely, William Henry Harrison, and, Zachary Taylor.

The writer is authorized to respectfully request that necessary surveys be made for the proper restoration and development of the grounds and property as a historic site under the protection of the Federal Government.

Also to advise you that a bill has been prepared for introduction in our next legislature (convening Jan. 1937) authorizing the acquisition of this original site for the purpose described in the resolution.

Awaiting your further suggestion or advise in the matter for the development of this site I am,

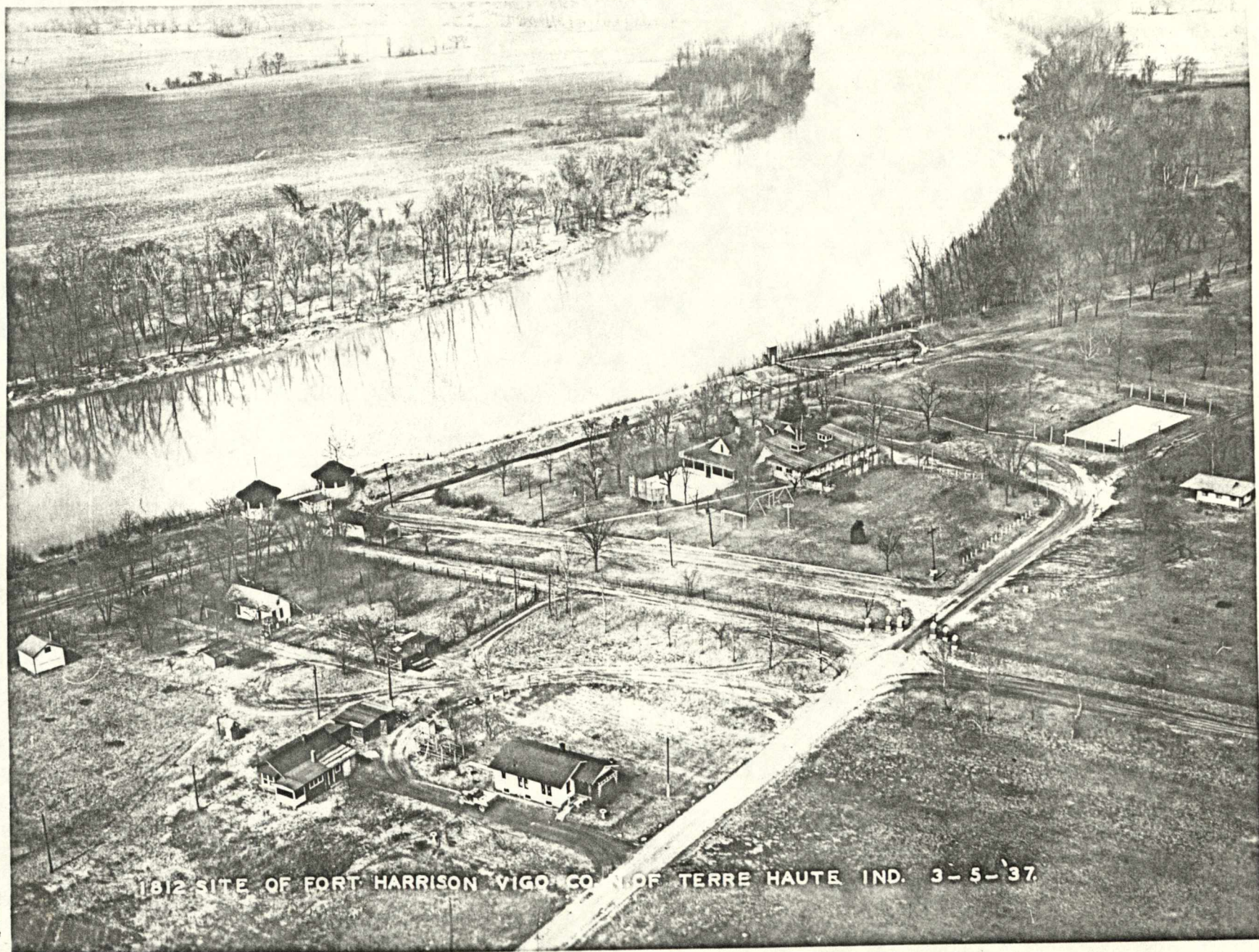
Yours very truly,

*Roscoe M. Grizzle*  
Roscoe M. Grizzle,

General Delivery,  
Terre Haute, Indiana.

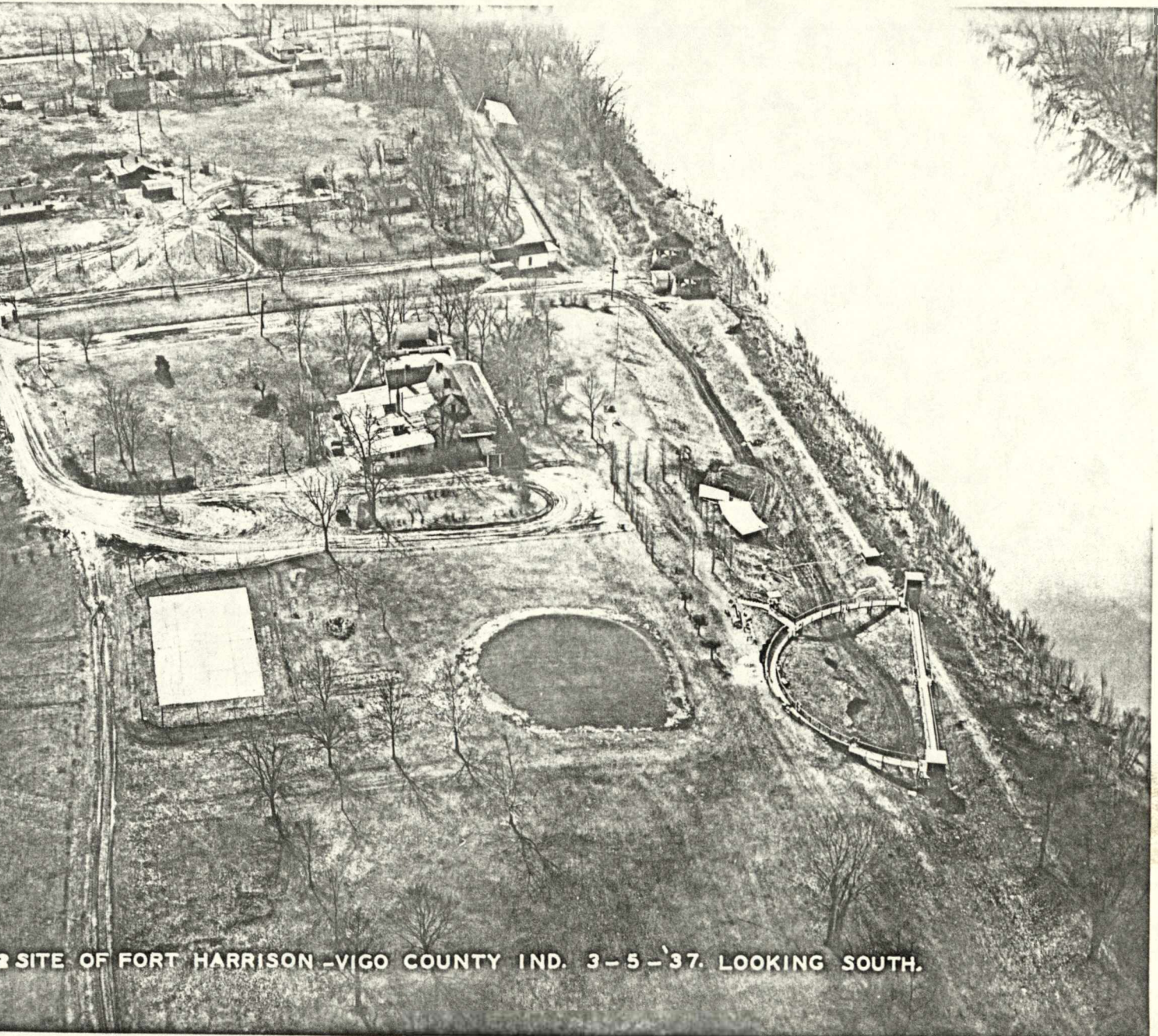
Chairman of  
Fort Harrison Committee,  
Vigo County Historical Society.  
Terre Haute, Indiana.





1812 SITE OF FORT HARRISON VIGO CO. OF TERRE HAUTE IND. 3-5-'37.





R SITE OF FORT HARRISON -VIGO COUNTY IND. 3-5-'37. LOOKING SOUTH.





ORIGINAL SITE FORT HARRISON - E. BANK WABASH RIVER - N. OF TERRE HAUTE. 3-5-37.

113TH PHOTO SECTION - IND. N. G.



R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS:

An effort is being made by the Vigo County Historical Society, Sons of American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, and others, to acquire and preserve the original site of Fort Harrison, on the Banks of the Wabash, and,

WHEREAS:

This fort was constructed during October 1811, as a place of refuge and protection in case of defeat at the Battle of Tippecanoe and others, and was a very important fort in the development of the Northwest Territory, and the State of Indiana, and,

WHEREAS:

The original site of Fort Harrison should be preserved for posterity as a memorial to those brave and loyal patriots (men and women) who participated in the early battles that made for us a peaceful settlement of Our State and Nation, Therefore, be it:

RESOLVED :

That we approve the acquisition and preservation of the original site of Fort Harrison for the purpose of a memorial to those brave defenders of Our State and Nation, and further,

RESOLVED:

That a committee be appointed to co-operate and to assist other patriotic and civic organizations in creating a suitable memorial upon the original site of Fort Harrison, and further,

RESOLVED:

That a copy of this resolution be spread upon our records, and one copy furnished the press for publication .

Approved in regular session of \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1936

Vigo Co. Hist. Soc.

COMMITTEE

on

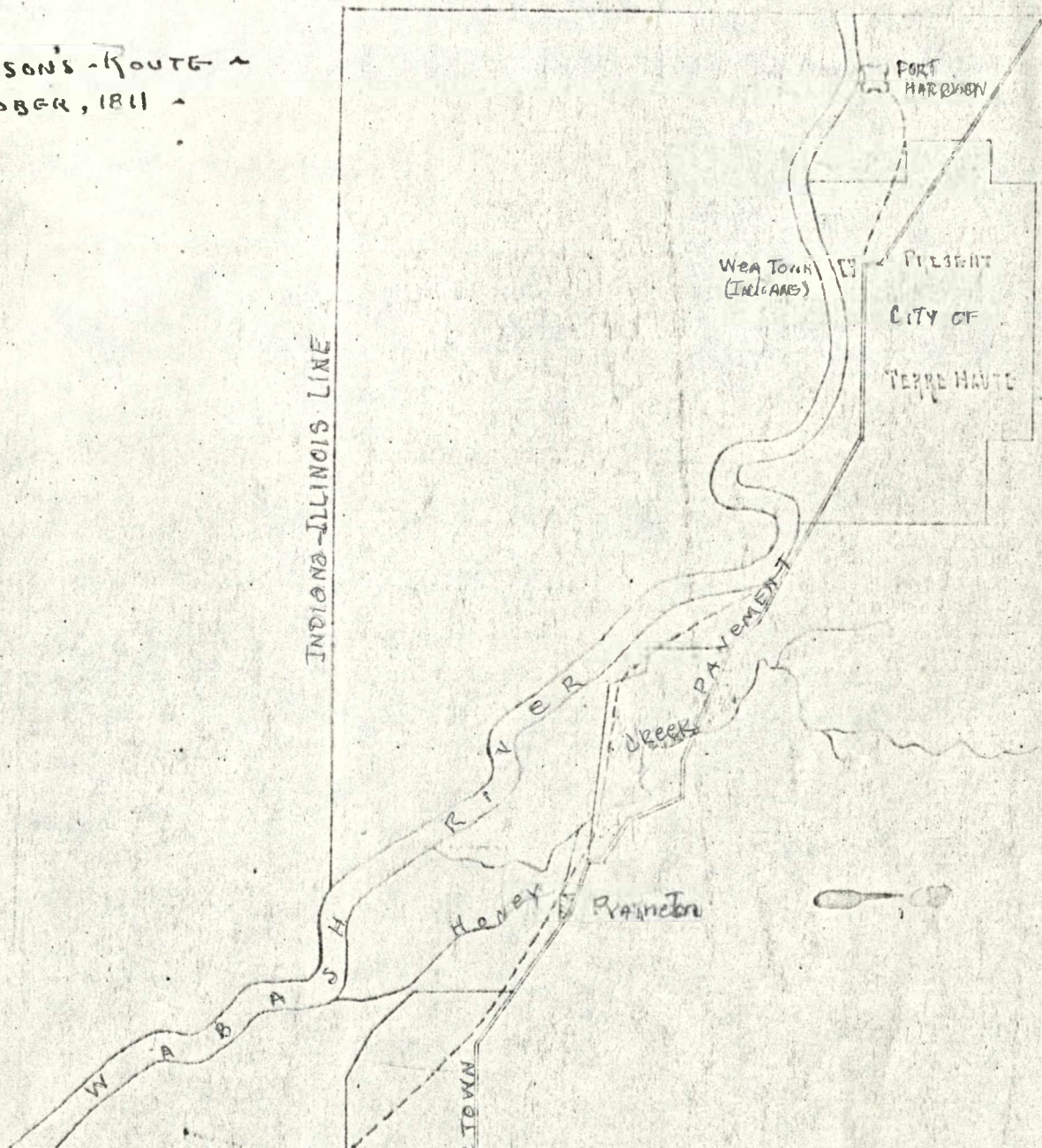
Fort Harrison.

( Roscoe M. Grizzle, Chairman

( Mrs. R. Gillum

( Mrs. H. Briggs

~ HARRISON'S - ROUTE ~  
~ OCTOBER, 1811 ~





UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

REPORT ON FORT HARRISON SITE,  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

In response to direction, the writer visited the site of Fort Harrison, Terre Haute, Indiana, on March 10. He viewed the area in company with Mr. Roscoe M. Grizzle, of Terre Haute, who called the attention of the Washington Office to the site in January, and later discussed its history and possible development with him and with Mr. George Scott, President of the Vigo County, Indiana, Historical Society.

History of the Site.

Fort Harrison was constructed in October, 1811, by the army of General William Henry Harrison, at the beginning of the campaign against the Indians then gathered at the Prophet's Town, on the upper Wabash, under the leadership of Tecumseh and his brother the Prophet. It was this campaign which reached its dramatic climax in the Battle of Tippecanoe, November 7, 1811.

The fort was built as a base of supplies and possible refuge in case of defeat. It was within the area covered by a recent land purchase whose validity was being questioned by the Indian leaders and may also have been intended to establish formal possession of the purchase tract.

The site chosen was about sixty-five miles up-stream from Vincennes, on the eastern shore of the Wabash, at the tip of an eastward bend of that river. The fort was of log construction, about 150 feet square, with two-story blockhouses at the Northwest and Southwest corners and open bastions at the other two corners. The gate was in the eastern face of the stockade wall. Barracks were built along the interior of the western side.

Harrison's army, moving up the river, quitted the fort October 28, leaving a small garrison, composed largely of invalids. On the return of the army from Prophet's Town, after the battle, a permanent garrison of one company of regulars was left at the fort.

At the opening of the War of 1812, Fort Harrison was the only border post between Fort Wayne, at the forks of the Maumee, and Fort Dearborn, at Chicago. With the fall of Mackinac, Detroit and Chicago,



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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in the summer of 1812, the frontier line was thrown back to the Maumee-Wabash, guarded by forts Wayne and Harrison. The main British force in Western Canada, under General Isaac Brock, was recalled to Niagara shortly after the capture of Detroit, to repel an American invasion at that point. This left the Indians to carry on the war in Indiana Territory by themselves and greatly reduced their offensive power. Nevertheless, they became so aggressive for a time that fears were expressed in Kentucky that the line of the Ohio would have to be defended.

A considerable force of Indians, under Tecumseh, besieged Fort Wayne from August 28 to September 12, but were finally driven off by relieving troops under Harrison. At the same time, an attempt was made on Fort Harrison by what was known as "the Prophet's party." Zachary Taylor, then a captain in the 7th U.S. Infantry, had been placed in command of the fort in June. His force consisted of fifty men, of whom the greater part were ill of malaria at the time of the attack. There were also a number of settlers, with their families, who had moved into the fort for protection.

Warning of danger was given by the killing of two men near the fort on the evening of September 3. The following evening, after a number of Indians had approached the fort under a white flag and asked for food, the guard was strengthened and ordered to be especially vigilant. Nevertheless, the Indians succeeded in approaching unseen and setting fire to the Southwest blockhouse. The cry of fire created a panic in the garrison and only Taylor's coolness and courage rallied them and saved the situation. It was found impossible to save the blockhouse, where some barrels of whiskey had caught fire, but the roof of the nearby barracks was pulled off to prevent the flames from spreading and a temporary breastwork was built across the exposed angle. Firing was brisk and continued until daylight, when the Indians withdrew out of range.

No further attack was made, but the Indians remained in the vicinity for some time, killing stock and keeping an eye on the fort. Taylor made one attempt to get a message down-river to Vincennes, but found the river guarded. On September 13, however, messengers got through safely by land. A large force moved immediately from Vincennes and relieved the fort on the 16th.

Later in the same autumn, Fort Harrison was the base for two punitive expeditions against the Indians of the upper Wabash, in the course of which Prophet's Town and a number of other villages

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were burned. The fort was not again attacked during the war, though Indian alarms were experienced there as late as 1816.

In this year, Terre Haute was founded about two miles south of the fort and settlement of this part of Indiana took place rapidly. A garrison was maintained in Fort Harrison until some time in 1818. A little later the site passed into private hands.

Present Condition and Status.

The site of Fort Harrison is on a low bluff above the Wabash, about fifty yards from the stream at low water and safely above the flood line. It has been used continuously for structures. It has never been plowed and quite probably the precise outline of the fort could be determined by archaeological investigation. No plan of the fort is known to exist and no drawing except one made from verbal description. The fort well still exists and was made use of in 1912 in placing a marker on the supposed site of the Southwest blockhouse. The other fort structures were sawed up and sold for souvenirs in 1840, at the time of a great Harrison rally in Terre Haute. Since 1840 farm buildings and a club house have successively occupied the ground.

At present, the club house and about 80 acres of land about it are owned by the Terre Haute Elks Club (Lodge No. 86, B.P.O.E.), who are reputed to have paid \$40,000. for the house and grounds within the last year. The whole area is rather attractive. While a row of houses stands within 100 yards of the fort site on the South, the ground is free of structures for some distance to the East and North. To the West lie the river and wooded bottomland. The larger part of the area is devoted to a golf course. It is level, except near the river, and has been lightly planted to trees, most of which appear to be elms and maples about fifteen years old. The approach to the ground is by way of Seventh Street, Terre Haute, with one block of houses intervening. Seventh Street runs North and South and crosses U.S. Highways #40 and #41 near the center of the city, which has a population of 60,000.

In 1912 a celebration was held in Terre Haute, organized by the local D.A.R. and Sons of the American Revolution, in honor of the centennial of the defense of the fort. At the time a stone was set up at the fort site, bearing a bronze plate briefly describing the events of the siege. Since then, the Vigo County Historical Society has maintained interest in the site. The Society, with some support from patriotic organizations, started a movement about a year ago looking toward state purchase of the Fort Harrison area. It is



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believed by members of the Society that this movement stimulated the purchase of the ground by the Elks, many of whose members had belonged to the now defunct Fort Harrison Country Club, which formerly held title to it. According to Mr. Grizzle, a bill which he drew up for the purchase of the tract by the state, to be presented to the last session of the Indiana legislature, was not pressed by the local assemblyman because of the opposition of the Elks.

Recommendations.

According to Mr. George Scott, President of the Vigo County Historical Society, his organization is seeking the creation of a "national shrine" on the Fort Harrison site. No detailed plans have been formulated for the area, but the purpose has been to have the state acquire it, with the idea of eventual federal ownership. Local belief in the unusual historical significance of the place is based on the fact that Fort Harrison was built by one future president and defended by another. Perhaps a sounder basis for consideration of it would be its association with the Tippecanoe campaign and more especially its part in breaking the tide of Indian invasion following the disasters of the summer of 1812. Viewed in this light, that of the British-Indian problem in the Old Northwest, Fort Harrison, Tippecanoe and Fort Wayne form a group of related sites, which ought to be studied together with a view to possible unified treatment. In this connection, the Revolutionary and French period interest at Vincennes is not forgotten. This interest, however, has already received such attention that it tends to overshadow the later importance of Vincennes and of the whole line of the Wabash and Maumee valleys. This subject will be treated further in connection with the study of Vincennes.

At present, it appears unlikely that the Elks will be amenable to any reasonable offer from the state for their property. However, they seem to appreciate the historic character of the ground and are not likely to make any use of it that would make it less desirable than it is now for development as a public area at some future time. It is recommended that Mr. Grizzle and the Vigo County Historical Society be encouraged to continue with their efforts to rouse local public interest in Fort Harrison, though the writer could not conscientiously recommend the site as possessing major importance by itself.

Respectfully submitted,

*Thomas M. Pitkin*  
Thomas M. Pitkin  
Assistant Historian



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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APPENDIX

Bibliography.

Adams, Henry, History of the United States under the Administration of James Madison.

Fort Harrison Centennial Association, Fort Harrison on the Banks of the Wabash, 1812-1912.

Kellogg, Louise P., The British Regime in Wisconsin and the Northwest.

*Fort Harrison Meeting, 1947*

JULIET PEDDLE  
ARCHITECT  
531 Opera House Building  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA  
Telephone Crawford 1511

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

June 25, 1947

Loren C. Halberstadt  
Business Office, City Public Schools  
Terre Haute, Indiana

Dear Mr. Halberstadt:

I have been working on the wording of the invitations for our meeting this summer, and have a draft prepared which I would like to have you look at to see if you find anything needed to make it more accurate and attractive. It seems to me, if it is agreeable to you to use more or less what I have written out, that it would be well to send this out ~~over~~ your signature.

The price of the meal has not been finally set, but I spoke to Mr. Byron this morning, and he seemed doubtful that he could give us a meal for under \$1.50. I have not yet talked to Mr. John Biel about where we should have people meet who desire transportation to Fort Harrison.

I am assuming that we will send a self-addressed post card, which will be returned by those wishing reservations, and that we will not ask for the money at this time but when they arrive for the meeting.

I think I have about all the out-of-town addresses that I will be able to get easily, and I think we should prepare a master list for mailing purposes. Mrs. Hughes tells me that you have the corrected membership list. Could we borrow this to compile the mailing list? We can handle the typing of the stencil for the invitation and card. Would you be able to have them run on the mimeograph Friday or Saturday, or Monday, if you are unable to do it this week?

Knowing that you are closed in the afternoon, I am mailing this so that you will have it tomorrow morning to look over, and I will ask Mrs. Campbell from my office to pick it up with the membership list and such comments as you may have in the latter part of the morning.

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

JP:mc

Very truly yours,

*Juliet Peddle*  
Juliet Peddle  
531 Opera House Bldg.  
Terre Haute, Indiana

Community Affairs File



## Fort Harrison Meeting, 1947

### VIGO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Terre Haute, Indiana

The Vigo County Historical Society is holding a special historical meeting on the site of old Fort William Henry Harrison, now the Elks' Fort Harrison Country Club, at Terre Haute, Indiana, on Monday, July 14th, 1947, from 4:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

The Society is inviting members of neighboring Historical Societies and other friends to join in this meeting, in order to provide an opportunity for people of similar interests in this area to become acquainted. You are cordially invited to attend this meeting.

Guests are to assemble at 4:00 P.M. at the Fort Harrison Country Club. The program will open with a brief address of welcome, and at 4:30 P.M. a radio play, "Captain Zack", written especially for this occasion and dramatizing the battle at Fort Harrison in 1812, will be broadcast from the studios of Indiana State Teachers' College over Station WBOW. The radio program will be presented over a public address system at the Fort, and will be followed by an on-the-site account of historical events connected with Fort Harrison by Mr. Ross F. Lockridge of Indiana University.

At 6:00, a pioneer dinner will be served -- the menu consisting only of foods available one hundred years ago. After dinner, a program of ballad singing and square dancing, in costume, will be given.

Owing to limited facilities at the Elks' Country Club, only 150 reservations will be accepted; therefore, if you desire to attend this meeting, it will be necessary for you to return the attached post card immediately to Miss Florise Hunsucker, Reservation Chairman, 320 N. 7th St., Apt. 2, Terre Haute, Indiana. Final date for receipt of reservations is July 11th. The cost is \$2.00 per person.

Transportation from Terre Haute to the Country Club can be arranged if desired. Cars will leave from Fairbanks Memorial Library at 3:45 P.M. Please indicate on your reservation if you desire transportation.

*Loring C. Halberstadt.*  
Loring C. Halberstadt, President  
Vigo County Historical Society  
Terre Haute, Indiana

Program Chairman's Report on Meeting of Vigo County  
Historical Society, July 14, 1947, at the Site of  
Fort Harrison.

It was not possible to make a complete official count of those present as some of the guests came only for the afternoon program, and a few only for the evening program, and those not staying for dinner required no checking. The Elks' count on dinner, however, was 138.

It was felt that the point of the program was to provide entertainment for as wide a range of interests as possible with as much local participation as could be achieved. The cost to the guest was higher than we wished, but we were unable to lower it. The two dollar reservation charge left too little margin to do anything for the performers (except Dr. Lockridge, who received his usual \$15.00 fee) other than reduce the cost of the evening for them. At their own suggestion, the dancers paid the actual dinner cost, but we felt they should not have to help pay the overhead. The other performers, who were mostly students, were our guests but received no money.

The total amount of money received was \$232.00.

Expenses were:

Elks' Club - 138 dinners	\$207.00
Dr. Lockridge	15.00
Invitations	8.00
	<hr/>
	230.00

Balance	<hr/>	\$2.00
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We feel that the program was a successful venture. The entertainment was well received, and was produced largely within our own community, which serves to engage the interests of more people and show us some of the potential sources of enrichment we have among ourselves. The response in attendance was as much as we had hoped for, but we would have liked to have had more people from out of town. We may be able to do better on this matter another time.

This has given us a good running start for the year, and with continued support as fine as we had for this meeting we should have a fine productive year ahead of us.

*Juliet Paddle*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Program Chairman



## Fort Harrison

### Notes on activities of OPERATION FORT HARRISON Committee Banks of the Wabash Festival, Inc.

The first meeting was held Monday February 11, following the organization of the PERC committee at the Terre Haute House

Those who met with the Chairman Lee Phifer and Co-Chairmen, Juliet Peddle were Mrs. Betty Carrithers, Mrs. Rosemary Isaacs, Mrs. Maxine Brown and Pam Pilcher.

The proposed project was described as constructing a replica of Fort Harrison in the Fairbanks Park area if feasible. Discussion followed on work to be done and how to go about it.

Areas to be explored: Find out the status of the contemplated site from the Park Board and the PROJECT RIVERVIEW committee.

Explore financing. National Park service Committee on the Bicentennial Celebration should be contacted.

Get as complete documentation of the physical appearance of the fort as possible. Some material is already available, but more is needed.

Work out some continuing responsibility to provide for maintenance, protection and operation of the fort after completed.

The next meeting will be at Newlin Johnson office at 601 Ohio Street Friday, February 15 at 7:00 pm.

Juliet Peddle

#### Addresses of those attending the meeting

	phones
Lee Phifer, chairman - 1937 Clay, 47804	home- 466-1415
	office - 234-2311
Juliet Peddle, co-chairman - 2117 N. 10th St 47804	home- 234-8089
Mrs. Betty (Clyde) Carrithers - 3707 Park View Drive	home- 232-8845
WTHI TV station 47802	office - 232-9481
Mrs. Rosemary Isaacs, 1908 South 29th St 47802	home- 232-5930
Newlin Johnson Real Estate, 601 Ohio	office - 234-3746
Maxine Brown (Byron), 2245 N. 9th Street 47804	home- 232-1560
Pam Pilcher, R. R. 22 47802	home- 4226
	299-4126

Notes on activities of  
OPERATION FORT HARRISON Committee  
Banks of the Wabash Festival, Inc.

Feb. 15

The committee met at the office of Newlin Johnson Real Estate Co. at 601 Ohio Street at 7:00 pm. Those present were Lee Phifer, Juliet Peddle, Rosemary Isaacs and Betty Carrithers.

Juliet Peddle reported that she talked to Dorothy Drummond who said that Alex Heller had called and said that work had already been done by the American Legion working with Congressman Myers, on the reconstruction of Fort Harrison. If this were achieved, the fort would become a national monument authorized by Congress. This has not been approved or acted upon as yet. Juliet Peddle called Myers office to see what could be learned locally about the status of the project. It would be necessary to have the bill number to get information on its status. Lee Phifer will call Alex Heller to find out what the Legion has done.

Dorothy Drummond supplied the committee with three names to write to in regard to the National Park Service Bi-Centennial Committee funds which might be available to help in financing the work. Juliet Peddle will write to inquire about the availability of funds and how one qualifies for a grant of this kind.

The proposed location in Fairbanks Park needs to be explored. The superintendent of the park system, Pat Daugherty, should be contacted. The Park Board has a meeting scheduled Tuesday March 5. Rosemary Isaacs will contact them and arrange to be present to brief them on what is proposed and get their reaction.

Betty Carrithers reported reading about the restoration of an early ship at Mackinac City in which some of their problems were described. It was thought that we might get some helpful information if we contacted them.

Betty Carrithers works at WTHI and schedules the "Telescope" program guests. She will schedule a tentative date in the second week of March for an interview to provide publicity if the project is ready for publicity. Plans should be ready for a news release Sunday, March 10 with picture.

Rosemary Isaacs will inquire about the availability of old telephone poles for possible use in the construction of the fort.

It was thought that some effort should be made to bring in other interested people to work on the project.

The next meeting of the group is scheduled Monday March 11 at Newlin Johnson's office.

Juliet Peddle, co-chairman of the committee.

Following the above meeting, Juliet Peddle had a conversation with Dorothy Drummond. We find that the publicity on the entire project should clear through the Publicity Chairman Jerry Summers, or Fred Nation. This does not necessarily rule out the publicity discussed, but the channels should be through the Publicity Chairman. Dorothy also said there would be a meeting of the chairmen of all of the PERC committees on Tuesday February 26 at 4:30 pm in the Terre Haute House Coffee Shop.

On Feb. 21 a letter was written to Mr. Lawrence Coyell of the National Park Service to inquire about funds for a project such as ours.



Lee Phifer contacted Alex Heller in regard to what has already been done. He found that the original plan was the reconstruction of the fort at the original site and a portion of the canal would also be restored as part of the project. As matters stand now it is improbable that that site would be available.

In order to explore the ways we can work together on this project, Lee Phifer suggested that Mr. Heller meet with our group and talk it over. Friday March 1 has been set as the day for such a meeting, probably 7:30 at Newlin Johnson Co. 601 Ohio, unless you are notified otherwise.

J. Peddle Feb. 24

*Mar. 11 - 7 p. m.*

Notes on Fort Harrison Project - Juliet Peddle - April 15, 1974

Telephone call from Fort Wayne Historical Society - Mr. Lynn Koehlinger - Apr. 10

In response to a letter sent to the Fort Wayne Historical Society on Apr 8, I received a phone call from Mr. Lynn Koehlinger, Campaign Chairman for Heritage Fort Wayne, Inc. a project for building a replica of the Fort. His address is P.O. box 96, but the Heritage Fort Wayne address is 215 West Washington Blvd, Fort Wayne, Ind. 46802. Their telephone number is 219-743-4555

He said their project will total 1 1/2 million dollars of which \$250,000 is site cost. Ten years ago they received a grant of 25,000 for research in Washington D.C. and elsewhere. They have reached \$900,000 at this point. They will defer some parts of the project until later if necessary. The project includes the reconstruction of a small village street adjacent to the fort and a visitors center. They hope to break ground next fall.

The project includes 20 parcels of land which they now own and have cleared. It is not the original site, but is only two blocks away. There is now a railroad on the original site. The site chosen is in a bend of the St Mary's River, served by Spy Run Blvd, and near Superior St.

The architectural firm, preparing the drawings is Strauss, Inc. of Fort Wayne. An architect from Michigan who was responsible for the replica of the fort on Mackinac Island served in an advisory capacity.

The project has been worked on some 25 years.

Heritage Fort Wayne will build the fort and turn it over to the city and they will in turn lease it back at no charge. They have raised much of the money themselves, though there has been some from grants. They will charge admission and have a sales desk, from which they will derive enough money to operate it after it is firmly established. They have borrowed some money

Fort Wayne has an annual festival around the Fourth of July.

12

On April 6 I received literature from Fort Wayne - two folders on the fort and several on the festival.

I wrote to the National Parks Service Bi-centennial committee early in March. I received a letter and information about Fort Stanwix to be built in Rome New York, promptly. They said I would hear from the Omaha office in whose territory we are, soon. When I did not hear, I phoned and discovered that the man who would have written, was ill. I talked to Mr. Don Dorsch who was very helpful (on Apr. 8)

As I understood him, complete grants are not available, but matching grants were the usual pattern in obtaining Federal funds. He suggested that I contact Mr. Joseph Cloud, Director of the Department of National Resources for the State of Indiana. address: Rm. 608 State Office Building, Indianapolis, Ind. 46204. His telephone is 317-633-6344. Mr. Dorsch said Mr Cloud could help us find the right source of funds for our project. He thought our fort would have to be listed on the National Register of Historic Monuments to obtain Federal funds. Mr. Cloud has not yet been contacted.



Notes on Fort Harrison Project - Juliet Peddle - Apr. 15, 1974 (continued)

Early in March, Maxine Brown received Xerox copies of descriptions and pictures of Fort Harrison from various accounts, sent from the office of Congressman John Myers at the request of Mr. Alex Heller. They will add to the total picture of the Fort.

During the week starting Sunday April 7, Maxine Brown spent four days in Washington at a convention. The fourth day was devoted to working in the archives records relating to the Fort. Mr. Myers had paved the way, and she found considerable new material, some of it original documents of the period when the fort was in use. She says there is much more work which should be done there, interesting, but time consuming, reading old letters and documents which may contain revelant material. The missing letter from Chunn to McComb showing the plat of the Fort has not been uncovered, but it could very well be in the early records there. There is also a record of efforts made in 1936-37 to restore the Fort and make it an Historic spot. The old handwritten letters should be transcribed, in order that those who use them can get the accurate information they contain. A typewritten copy should accompany the Xerox so that one can check the original if there is any uncertainty.

Rosemary Isaacs has been using her special knowledge to explore and collect data on sites, acquisition and availability, and the continuing operation of the project when it is completed.

There is an unreported time gap between the first set of dittoed notes sent out and these sent today. This includes a meeting on March 5 of the Park Board which Rosemary Isaacs and Alex Heller attended. The Park Board expressed an interest in the project, and said they would help in any way they can. There has been some concern as to who would operate and maintain the facility after it is completed. The Park Board indicated they could do this. At a later date, Mike Ryer was assigned to work with us.

Dick Garmong has studied such evidence as is now available in relation to his knowledge of construction and the sources of materials, such as logs, and has made a preliminary "guesstimate" of about \$200,000 for the Fort alone. This does not include land, site work, utilities, a visitor's center and such furnishings as are needed to provide a realistic picture. This gives us a rough preliminary figure for planning.

We discovered that copies of the original survey of this area made in 1814, which include the location of Fort Harrison are in the County Surveyor's office here. The County Surveyor, Mr Schilling made copies available to us.

Since much of the progress made recently has been done by individuals, we are using these notes to inform those interested about what has been done, so that everyone can keep posted.

Project Fort Harrison  
A Preliminary analysis

May 9, 1974

GOAL

To construct a replica of Fort Harrison as historically correct as possible, designed to provide visitors with an interesting and instructive program of activities. It should be planned with the convenience of the visitors in mind, ease of maintenance and operation, and a consideration of the assets and liabilities which would be created for its neighbors.

TO BE INCLUDED

150 FEET SQUARE

Replica of Fort, including such small buildings as a shed for horses, a well head and a "necessary"  
Visitors center, office, sales and supervision, including toilet facilities .  
Parking  
Utility structure for yard care etc.  
Public Toilet facilities  
Parade ground for military maneuvers  
Furnishing buildings, beds, chairs, tables, cooking equipment dishes etc.  
Furnishing military equipment, guns cannons, ammunition etc.  
Furnishing uniforms and related items for military demonstrations  
Storage facilities

WE NEED

1. More information on the original fort and accessory buildings
2. More information on standard fort construction
3. More information on normal functioning of fort
  - a. Daily routines
  - b. Provision for cooking and supplies, and for possible cows, chickens & garden
  - c. Eating facilities
  - d. Water supply for drinking, bathing and laundry
  - e. Toilet facilities
  - f. Sleeping quarters for officers and for men
  - g. Recreation space
  - h. Drill or parade ground
  - i. Provisions for the activities of traders and Indians
  - j. Arms and ammunition and storage facilities
  - k. Flagstaff
4. Determine Site
  - a. Original site would be ideal, but it would seriously affect the Elks Club Facilities and would create considerable ill will
  - b. Site immediately south of Elks Club, between Elks, Whitcomb Boulevard Fort Harrison Road and North 4th Street. MAX 6.3 ACRES  
MIN 3.1 ACRES

For

This would be almost the same as the original in relation to the river, and the original road approach and would be within the original military reservation

Against

The Elks may not want the facility so close, in which case we would be blocked in land acquisition and in other areas. The required site is owned by the Elks and six other parties. They would probably be unhappy to vacate. The price of the land might be high, and the total land cost would be unknown. Time would be required for acquisition of land and clearance.



c. Site bounded by Ohio Street, Dresser Drive Parkway, Poplar Street and South First Street. *5.1 ACRES*

For

The land is unincumbered except for power lines across it, and is for sale by the Urban Renewal organization for \$85,000.

The site is adjacent to the present park property along Dresser Drive and it might well be joined to Fairbanks Park when industrial buildings are vacated south of Poplar street.

It would become part of the Civic Center and being adjacent to the Dresser Drive area, the tracts could be cared for together, if the Park Board should take on the project later.

There would be little or no time lost in buying separate parcels of land, and removing existing buildings.

Against

It is not the original site - is actually 3 or 4 miles south of it.

There are still some industrial buildings and a railroad on First Street. We have been told that the buildings will be removed in due course. The railroad could be screened out with some sort of planting or suitable fence.

5. Find a suitable funding agency
6. Determine what authorized group would sponsor the project and make the application for funds.
7. Establish what agency will take over the maintenance and operation of the facility upon completion (Possibly the Park Board)
8. Project a financial schedule of operation, revenues which might be anticipated and expenses which would be a normal part of the project.
9. Provide for a special committee of some sort to plan the program and activities, perhaps working with the park board or under it with this special assignment.
10. Interest people in the community who might be pleased to help with their interest and influence in making the project go.

*COST OF FORT ALONE \$200,000 ± NOT INCLUDING SITE, SITE WORK, AUXILIARY BUILDINGS, UTILITIES, FURNISHINGS ETC.*

Project- Reconstruction of Fort Harrison  
Status June 29, 1974

NEEDED-SUMMARY

1. More information about physical appearance of the original Fort Harrison and activities which took place there .  
More information about typical fort construction of the period, the normal equipment and furnishing of such a fort and the routine and special activities which would probably have been carried on.
2. What organization would be legally qualified to assume the responsibility of financing and construction of the project.
3. What organization would assume the physical maintenance of the property.  
What organization would operate the visitors program and provide special programs and displays.
4. What site would we use
5. What sources of funds could be available to us
6. If we use Federal funds, will it be mandatory to be listed in the National Register of Historic Buildings  
If we should choose to use the site near the jail and the original site was registered, could we apply for federal funds.

Details

1. Search for missing letter from Chunn to McComb  
Search further on contemporary records which might contain descriptions of fort.  
Search for military handbooks on construction, equipment and operation of early forts  
We have four known variations of the appearance of the fort in pictures.  
Lithograph made and copyrighted in 1848 by Luther G. Hager and James Modesitt (shows 2 blockhouses)  
Lithograph made by Benson J. Lossing September 27, 1860 who was compiling a Pictorial Field book of the War of 1812. It was made from remaining evidence on spot and description of a neighbor who had lived near the fort long enough to remember the original. (shows 2 west blockhouses and another roof in the northeast corner) This may be a wood engraving.  
Zinc cut reproduction of Lossing picture without third roof used as illustration of Condit's History of Terre Haute.  
Oil Painting of Fort now at museum of Vigo County Historical society. In the corner is the notation "From an old print by Walter Sies 3-95" At the bottom of picture in center "Fort Harrison 1812" This same picture is used as an illustration for TERRE HAUTE REMEMBERS -1938, somewhat cut down around the edges. A framed photograph of this picture also exists which belongs to the Vigo County Historical Society. <sup>pub 1879</sup>  
Reference to pencil sketch of the fort in the History of Edgar County, Ill, PP 487-488 in possession of Sylvester Barker who lived near the fort until 1826. Mention is here made also of a council house about 40 ft. square outside of the fort. Inquiries have been made but the sketch has not been found.



2. Organizations which could legally handle financing and construction responsibilities of project.  
Banks of the Wabash Festival, Inc *Vigo Co Historical Soc*  
Park Board of Vigo County  
~~Revt~~ Harrison Trail Commission, authorized by legislature  
A new organization formed for the purpose
3. Organizations which could maintain the project and be responsible for programs and taking care of visitors.  
These two functions could be taken care of by the same organization or separated. Any of the above organizations mentioned under (2) might do this, or it might be a new organization formed for the purpose.
4. Site- either a site just south of the Elks and north of Fort Harrison Road facing on the river (actually in the original military reservation) or a site south of the jail, between Ohio and Poplar, and between First and Dresser Drive.  
or some other site which might fit the requirements.
5. Funding- 1-National Park BiCentennial Committee (probably on a matching basis)  
(This would probably require that the original site be on the register of National Historic Monuments)  
2-State Funds  
3. Other Federal Funds HUD or some other  
4. Eli Lilly Foundation  
5. Hulman Foundation  
6Other foundation  
7- Raise money by putting on a campaign
- 6.National Register of Historic Places  
Is the original site one that could be put on the register  
If it could qualify for the register, could the replica be placed at a different site, and be eligible for funding with Federal or State Funds

*Taylor, Zachary*

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

CAPTAIN ZACK

By

IRA CAMPBELL

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

June 1, 1947

Ira Campbell  
1660 N. 7th St.  
Terre Haute, Indiana



CAST OF CHARACTERS

ANNOUNCER

NARRATOR

CAPTAIN ZACK

DR. CLARK

BEN

WADE

SERGEANT

1ST DESERTER, 2ND DESERTER, A MAN, MRS. LAMBERT, MR. LAMBERT

CAPTAIN ZACK

ANNOUNCER:

The Vigo County Historical Society presents:  
Captain Zack, a dramatic account of the defense  
of Fort Harrison under the command of Captain  
Zachary Taylor, on September 4th, 1812. This  
evening, members of the Vigo County Historical  
Society and their guests -- members of Historical  
Society groups from neighboring cities in the  
Wabash Valley -- are assembled for a dinner  
meeting on the site of Fort William Henry  
Harrison, now the Elks' Country Club on Fort  
Harrison Road. On this spot, one hundred thirty-  
five years ago, a historic battle was fought --  
a battle which made possible the founding of the  
city of Terre Haute.

MUSIC:

UP, BRIEFLY.

NARRATOR:

(RATHER QUIETLY, NOT TOO DRAMATIC) It is  
September, 1812. For the past three months, the  
United States and England have been at war. A  
British army has recently captured the small  
village of Detroit, and is preparing to march  
against the scattered American settlements in the



Ohio River valley. The British have gained a powerful ally through a treaty with the great Indian leader, Tecumseh. Tecumseh and his warriors are assembling in northern Indiana, and are momentarily expected to take the warpath against the United States. Farther to the south, a small American force is stationed at Vincennes, capitol of the newly created Indiana Territory. Between these forces, on the east bank of a long bend in the Wabash River, stands the last outpost of the Stars and Stripes, Fort William Henry Harrison. This crude log fort has recently been placed under the command of a young Captain named Zachary Taylor.

MUSIC: UP BRIEFLY, DRAMATIC.

NARRATOR: (TENSER, MORE DRAMATIC) Now it is the fourth of September, late in the afternoon. The fort is silent: a group of men and women are standing quietly near the big east gate. Their heads are bowed, their faces tense and sad. They are watching as a group of soldiers completes the digging of two new graves. A young soldier at the back of the crowd whispers to his companion:

BEN: (ABOUT EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD - WHISPERS) Wade, was you in the patrol this mornin' that found 'em?

-WADE: (OLDER, SPEAKS SLOWLY, DRAWLING) Yeah, Benny, I was along.

BEN: Was they -- did they look mighty bad?

WADE: Wal, they looked like men thet's bin shot an' then skelped.

BEN: (AFTER A PAUSE) I never did see a man that was skelped.

WADE: You kin hope you never do. (PAUSE) Looks like they're all finished diggin' now.

BEN: Yeah. Do ya reckon Cap'n Zack'll say a few words for the buryin'?

WADE: Most likely. Either him or the doctor.

BEN: Listen! The Cap'n's talkin'!

CAPT. ZACK: (YOUNG, STRONG, FORCEFUL VOICE. BEGINS OFF, THEN UP SLOWLY TO FULL) These two men, William Moses and John Guffy, were privates in the Seventh United States Infantry. They were killed by Indians while they were out cutting hay for the fort. We commend their mortal remains to the earth, and pray that God will have mercy on their souls. Amen.

AD LIB VOICES, BG: Amen. Amen.

NARRATOR: William Moses and John Guffy were buried within the walls of Fort Harrison. But the small band of survivors knew that the Indians were still waiting and watching in the forest, and that they would probably attack the fort that night. None of the group was more keenly aware of their danger than



the young Captain, Zack Taylor. Many of his men were ill with malaria, and unable to fight, and he knew too that there was not enough ammunition for an extended battle. Shortly after the funeral service, he is in his cabin, talking to Dr. Clark, the physician at the fort -- a man who has lived many years in the wilderness. Captain Zack is speaking:

CAPT. ZACK: Well, Doctor, there's two able-bodied men that can't help us any more.

DR. CLARK: (MATURE, CULTURED VOICE) That's right, Captain. They're the first of us to go.

CAPT. ZACK: Dr. Clark, you've seen more Indian fighting than I have. I'd like to ask you a few questions.

DR. CLARK: I'll give you the answers if I can, Zack.

CAPT. ZACK: I've got probably fifteen soldiers well enough to fight, and then there's a few of the settlers. Now tell me, do you think I should send two of these men and try to get a message through to Vincennes to tell General Harrison what a fix we're in?

DR. CLARK: I'd say "no", Captain. If the Indians intend to settle down for a long siege, it would be the correct thing to do. It would take the men two or three days to get to Vincennes, and then in another three or four days, the general could get

help up here to us. But, on the other hand, if the Indians attack tonight, you'll need every man -- and even one man more or less might be the difference between holding the fort and losing it.

CAPT. ZACK: That's the way I figured it. (PAUSE) I think the Indians will attack, and if they do, I can't spare a soul. Now, let me ask you another question. What do you honestly think of our chances?

SOUND: KNOCK ON DOOR

CAPT. ZACK: (CALLS) Come in. (PAUSE) Come in, Sergeant, what have you got?

SERGEANT: I got them figures you wanted, Cap'n.

CAPT. ZACK: Let's hear them.

SERGEANT: Fourteen soldiers that kin fight.

CAPT. ZACK: Fourteen! All right, go on.

SERGEANT: Six of the settlers that kin fight.

CAPT. ZACK: That makes twenty.

SERGEANT: Me an' the corporal an' the drummer boy -- three more.

CAPT. ZACK: That's twenty-three. The doctor here and myself make twenty-five. How many are sick?

SERGEANT: Forty-two. An' then there's four women an' five children in the fort.

CAPT. ZACK: Dr. Clark, in case of attack, do you think any of your forty-two patients could give any help?

DR. CLARK: You just had the chills and fever yourself, Captain; you know how it goes. You're either



right bad or you're all right. If there's forty-two down -- I don't know. I'll check every one, and get anybody on his feet that can manage it.

CAPT. ZACK: All right. Now, Sergeant --

SERGEANT: Yes suh?

CAPT. ZACK: Did you check the ammunition?

SERGEANT: Yes suh. They's enough made up for sixteen rounds apiece for the fourteen soldiers. The settlers got their own powder and ball. We got two kegs of powder left and quite a lot of lead.

CAPT. ZACK: Good. Get ahold of the Corporal, and have him get some of the women and the settlers busy melting up lead and making cartridges. Find out what different bore rifles we got, and make up some for each kind, and keep them separated so they don't get it all mixed up. And hurry; it's almost dark.

SERGEANT: Yes suh.

CAPT. ZACK: Then put two men up in the top floor of the two blockhouses; put one man at each of the other two corners of the fort -- that makes six men. Then I want the Corporal to walk the fence and hail the men at each of the corners. At midnight, relieve the sentinels with another detail of six men, and you walk the wall until morning. Understand?

SERGEANT: Yes suh.

CAPT. ZACK: After you get the corporal and sentinels posted, get out every rifle in the fort, inspect it, get

it loaded. See that every able-bodied man has at least one rifle, and put the rest in some central place where we can get them quick if we need them. That's all for now; go ahead.

SERGEANT:

All right, Captain.

CAPT. ZACK:

I hope I'm doing the right thing, Dr. Clark. It's not just that this is my first real command, and that I want to make a good showing. It's -- well, (STRONG) General Harrison told me when he sent me up here that this fort had to be held -- whether it was Indians or the British -- the whole Western campaign depends on it. And now we're trapped in here with a big attack coming on probably, and only twenty-five men to fight it off. Tecumseh himself may be out there, planning the attack. I'm just a greenhorn of a Captain, and I know it, but I've got to do the right thing, and I'd be grateful for any advice you can give me.

DR. CLARK:

(SLOWLY AND SERIOUSLY) I've got no ideas any better than yours, Zack. The Indians can't shoot us from outside the fort. They've got to come over the walls. If you've got men on the walls, it'll take a powerful lot of Indians to get over the top and inside. If there's enough of 'em out there to do it, the fort will fall and we'll all be scalped.

CAPT. ZACK:

(STRONG) If every man fights until he's scalped, maybe none of us will be.



DR. CLARK: That's the spirit, Zack. Just put that courage and fight in your men. It's going to be up to you to keep them going when the attack comes. That's what you're Captain for.

NARRATOR: (AFTER PAUSE) Forty-two men down with fever! And only twenty-five to hold the fort against the expected attack. But Captain Zack was determined that the fort would be held! By nightfall, every man was at his post, straining to hear any sound from the dark forest beyond the walls. Stationed in the loft of the north blockhouse, are Ben, the young soldier, and his friend, Wade, a veteran of many Indian campaigns. They stand with loaded rifles, peering into the darkness.

MUSIC: UP BRIEFLY, SLOW, OMINOUS

SOUND: A FAINT, FAR-OFF CALL LIKE AN OWL'S CRY, SILENCE, THEN A LOUDER OWL-LIKE CRY.

BEN: (TENSE WHISPER) Did you hear that, Wade?

WADE: (QUIETLY) Yeah, Benny, I heard it.

BEN: (ANXIOUSLY) Think it was an Indian?

WADE: If it wasn't, it was sure a hoot owl that sounds like an Indian.

SOUND: OWL CRY REPEATED.

BEN: (WHISPERS) There it is again.

WADE: They must be gittin' ready for somethin'.

BEN: It sure is dark out thar. I can't even see the Wabash any more.

WADE: (AFTER A PAUSE) One time, coupla years ago, me an' another feller was huntin' down along the Wabash a little ways from here, an' we seen old Tecumseh comin' down the river.

BEN: (SURPRISED) You did?

WADE: They was 'bout five or six hundred canoes, comin' along fast eight and ten abreast, all loaded down with braves. We hid in the bresh an' watched 'em - it took a long time for 'em all to git past.

BEN: (AWED) Did you see Tecumseh hisself?

WADE: We was too fur away to make him out good, but we seen him. It shore was a sight.

BEN: (AFTER A PAUSE) I'm gittin' mighty tired of standin'. Do you think our time's up yit, Wade?

WADE: Purty near, I reckon.

BEN: (AFTER A PAUSE, EXCITEDLY) Wade, come here! Look!

WADE: See somethin'?

BEN: I ain't sure. Look right down thar along the wall, towards the other blockhouse. I keep thinkin' I see somethin' movin thar, an' I thought I saw a little light.

WADE: I don't see nothin'. Wait --

BEN: (EXCITED) See, see -- didn't somethin' run -- back toward the woods from that corner thar?



WADE: I thought I seen somethin'. If anythin' moves agin, I'll shoot it.

BEN: (VERY EXCITED) Thar, Wade, what's that? Up kinda high?

WADE: It's -- it looks like --

BEN: (INTERRUPTING) It's smoke -- (YELLS) See the fire!

WADE & BEN: (AD LIB) Fire! Fire! South blockhouse, all out! Fire!

NARRATOR: (AFTER PAUSE) Under cover of the darkness, an Indian had crept up and set fire to the south blockhouse. The Indians hoped to effect an entrance into the fort through the burned out area. Meanwhile, they kept up a steady attack with rifles and bows and arrows from the shelter of the forest. Within the fort, the men sought frantically to extinguish the fire and save the blockhouse. Under Captain Zack's direction, a bucket line was formed from the well to the blockhouse. But, in spite of their efforts, the fire continued to spread. Several of the men began to lose courage.

SERGEANT: (BREATHLESS) The fire's gettin' ahead of us, Cap'n.

CAPT. ZACK: Keep the water coming. (SHOUTS) Here, you -- where are you going? Pick up that bucket.

1ST DESERTER: Not me, Cap'n, I'm gettin' out of here.

CAPT. ZACK: What's that?

1ST DESERTER: You can't hold this place. The fire's spreadin' to the walls. The whole fort's goin' to burn.

CAPT. ZACK: Get back in that bucket line with the rest of the men.

1ST DESERTER: You can't give me orders now. It's every man for himself.

CAPT. ZACK: (SHOUTS) Men -- listen to me! (PAUSE) This man wants to run away. The rest of you decide right now -- either stay and fight for this fort or run. What do you say?

2ND DESERTER: I'll take my chances in the woods.

CAPT. ZACK: (AFTER BRIEF PAUSE -- COMPLETE SILENCE) It ain't just our skins, men. The government is depending on us to hold this fort. If this fort goes, the whole Ohio valley will be wide open to the enemy. (PAUSE) I'm going to stay here and fight. How about the rest of you.

AD LIB VOICES: I'm stayin' with you, Cap'n. You kin count on me. We can lick 'em, Cap'n Zack.

CAPT. ZACK: All right, you two deserters can get on out of here. Let's try to get this fire out, men.

NARRATOR: The men returned to fighting the fire with renewed courage. But the fire was raging now, and soon a new crisis arose.

SERGEANT: (EXCITED) Cap'n! Cap'n Zack!

CAPT. ZACK: (CALLS) What's the matter, Sergeant?

SERGEANT: Cap'n, we're out of water! The well's gone dry!

CAPT. ZACK: No water? Let's see.



SERGEANT: All we get is sand -- wet sand.

CAPT. ZACK: Can somebody get down in the well and dip the water up? There must be some at the bottom.

SERGEANT: The hole ain't big enough.

CAPT. ZACK: Why ain't it? Somebody got down there to dig it.

SERGEANT: That wall has been cavin' in for a long time, Cap'n. We've been havin' to just thread the bucket down, and now it's fillin' up with sand.

CAPT. ZACK: Maybe somebody little could --

JULIA LAMBERT: (INTERRUPTING, TIMIDLY) I'm little, Captain Zack, I'll go down.

CAPT. ZACK: You? Who are you?

JULIA LAMBERT: I'm Mrs. Lambert. I'm little enough to get down there, I think.

CAPT. ZACK: (AFTER A PAUSE, DOUBTFULLY) You want to try?

JULIA LAMBERT: Yes, Captain.

CAPT. ZACK: Well, then, take this big gourd, and stand in the bucket and hold onto the rope. That's it -- now, let her down easy.

JULIA LAMBERT: All right, I'm ready.

CAPT. ZACK: Now, when you get down there, fill the bucket with the gourd, then give a jerk on the rope and we'll pull the bucket up. If you want out, give three or four quick jerks.

JULIA LAMBERT: Yes, Captain. Will -- will somebody watch?

CAPT. ZACK: You two men, I want you to stay right here and pull this lady out if anything goes wrong -- no matter what happens.

MR. LAMBERT: (COMING ON) I'll stay, Cap'n. You can trust me -- I'm this lady's husband, and I'll be here as long as I'm alivin'.

CAPT. ZACK: All right. Lower away.

NARRATOR: Mrs. Julia Lambert was lowered into the well, and she succeeded in dipping up enough water so the men were able to keep the fire from spreading to the buildings on either side of the south blockhouse. But the blockhouse itself was lost. As soon as Captain Zack saw that it was impossible to save it, he put his men to work constructing a barricade -- a sort of breastworks across the open space where the blockhouse had been. The men worked furiously under the steady fire of the Indians in the forest. Two of them were killed, and several were wounded, but by the time the fire had died down sufficiently for the Indians to attack, the men in the fort had build a substantial barricade. When the attack came, every man well enough to hold a rifle was standing behind the barricade, firing at the advancing warriors. All the women and some of the sick men were just below the barricade, loading rifles as fast as they were emptied. The deadly rifle fire from behind the barricade repulsed the attack, and the Indians rapidly retreated to the shelter of the forest.



Many of them were lying, either dead or wounded,  
between the forest and the fort.

CAPT. ZACK: (SHOUTS) Hold your fire! (PAUSE) Stand down and  
load all rifles. When you're all loaded, stand  
to again.

DR. CLARK: (OFF, CALLS) Captain, take a look there in the  
east.

CAPT. ZACK: Can it be morning already?

DR. CLARK: Sure looks like it.

CAPT. ZACK: Stand down, men. (PAUSE) I think it's all over --  
they won't attack in daylight. The fort is saved.

A MAN: (OFF, SHOUTS) How about a cheer for Fort William  
Henry Harrison?

SOUND: RAGGED CHEER, YELLS, AND WHISTLES.

CAPT. ZACK: Sergeant, post a light guard. The rest of you can  
lend a hand here -- we've got a lot of work to do.  
We'll have to look after the wounded and dead, and  
start repairing the wall. You can all be proud  
of yourselves -- and I'm mighty proud of every  
one of you.

THE END